

Chairman Wm. Weston J. Newton

*First Vice-Chair:
Laurie Slade Funderburk*

Legislative Oversight Committee



*William K. (Bill) Bowers
Raye Felder
Phyllis J. Henderson
Mia S. McLeod
Ralph W. Norman
Robert L. Ridgeway III
James E. Smith, Jr.
Edward R. Tallon Sr.
Robert Q. Williams*

*Nathan Ballentine
Gary E. Clary
Kirkman Finlay III
Joseph H. Jefferson Jr.
Walton J. McLeod
Joshua Putnam
Samuel Rivers Jr.
Tommy M. Stringer
Bill Taylor*

South Carolina House of Representatives

*Jennifer L. Dobson
Research Director*

*Cathy A. Greer
Administration Coordinator*

**Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211
Telephone: (803) 212-6810 • Fax: (803) 212-6811
Room 228 Blatt Building**

*Charles L. Appleby IV
Legal Counsel*

**Legislative Oversight Committee Meeting
November 9, 2015
2:00 p.m.
Room 516 - Blatt Building**

ARCHIVED VIDEO

- I. You may access archived video of this meeting by visiting the South Carolina General Assembly's website (<http://www.scstatehouse.gov>) and click on "Committee Postings and Reports," then under House Standing Committees click on "Legislative Oversight". Lastly, click on "Video Archives" for a listing of archived videos for the Legislative Oversight Committee.

MINUTES

- I. House Rule 4.5 requires the standing committees of the House to prepare and make available for public inspection, in compliance with Section 30-4-90, the minutes of full committee meetings. House Rule 4.5 further provides that such minutes need not be verbatim accounts of such meetings.
- II. The House Legislative Oversight Committee (Committee) was called to order by Chairman Wm. Weston J. Newton on Monday, November 9, 2015, in Room 516 of the Blatt Building, Columbia, South Carolina. Chairman Newton made brief welcoming remarks and general announcements. All Members were present for the meeting, except for the Honorable William K. Bowers, the Honorable Raye Felder, the Honorable Joshua A. Putnam, the Honorable James E. Smith, Jr., and the Honorable Edward R. Tallon, Sr..
- III. Chairman Newton submitted proposed minutes from the Committee's previous meeting, August 26, 2015. The Honorable Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes. A roll call vote was held, and all present voted in favor of approval.

Rep. Jefferson’s Motion to Approve the Minutes from the Committee August 26, 2015, meeting	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
1. Nathan Ballentine	Yea		
2. William K. “Bill” Bowers			(Not Present)
3. Gary E. Clary			(Not Present)
4. Raye Felder			(Not Present)
5. Kirkman Finlay, III	Yea		
6. Laurie Slade Funderburk	Yea		
7. Phyllis Henderson	Yea		
8. Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	Yea		
9. Mia S. McLeod			(Not Present)
10. Walton J. McLeod			(Not Present)
11. Ralph W. Norman	Yea		
12. Joshua A. Putnam			(Not Present)
13. Robert L. Ridgeway, III	Yea		
14. Samuel Rivers, Jr.	Yea		
15. James E. Smith, Jr.			(Not Present)
16. Tommy M. Stringer	Yea		
17. Edward R. “Eddie” Tallon			(Not Present)
18. Bill Taylor	Yea		
19. Robert Q. Williams	Yea		
20. Wm. Weston J. Newton	Yea		

IV. The next order of business was a discussion of scheduled agency oversight studies agencies, including but not limited to, an update on status of studies and feedback from agencies on ways to improve the legislative oversight study and investigation process.

There have been five full committee meetings with today being number five, and 18 subcommittee and ad hoc committee meetings. The following Subcommittee Chairs provided a brief report on their respective subcommittees: the Honorable Phyllis Henderson; the Honorable Kirkman Finlay, III; and the Honorable Nathan Ballentine. It was noted a complete update of committee activities for the year will be provide during the next full committee meeting scheduled for December 15, 2015.

An update was provided about ways constituents can be involved in the process. The public has had, and continues to have, the opportunity to submit written comments online to the Committee about the 65 agencies identified in the House Journal as will be reviewed by this Committee. Also, online there is an option for constituents to request notification when meetings are scheduled. From May 1, 2015, until May 31, 2015, the Committee posted an online survey to solicit comments from the public specifically about the first five agencies under study, Comptroller General’s Office, Department of Transportation, First Steps to School Readiness, Department of Social Services, and Department of Juvenile Justice. From September 1, 2015, until September 30, 2015, the Committee posted an online survey to solicit comments from the public specifically about the second five agencies under study, State Transportation Infrastructure Bank, School for the Deaf and Blind, Commission for the Blind, Department of Public Safety and Treasurer’s Office. There were over a thousand responses received for each survey. Those responses are posted online verbatim as they were received by the Committee. Also, online there is a

statement indicating they are not the comments or expression of the House Legislative Oversight Committee, any of its Subcommittees, or the House of Representatives.

An update was provided about program evaluation reports. It was noted that program evaluation reports for agencies are posted online.

An update was provided about the status of staff studies. Staff studies, which have been worked on in the priority determined by the full Committee, have been submitted with the agency response to the applicable Subcommittee for the Comptroller General, Department of Transportation, First Steps to School Readiness, and Department of Social Services. The staff study was submitted to the Department of Juvenile Justice last week. The agency has, pursuant to our Standard Practices, 10 business days to provide a response, if they wish to provide a response. This 10 day period ends on November 17. Staff is beginning to draft staff studies for the second five agencies under study and will work on these in the priority determined by the full committee, as they did with the first five agencies.

A presentation was made by Mr. Charles Appleby, Legal Counsel to the Committee, about progress being made by staff in conjunction with the Legislative Services Agency's staff on a redesign of the Committee's postings and reports.

It was noted that a short survey was sent to the agency heads for the 65 agencies identified in the House Journal as the ones to be studied by this Committee seeking input from the agencies on ways that the Committee may improve its process. Responses were received by 58.46% of the agencies to be studied by this Committee. The responses will be posted online.

Committee Members were provide a draft subcommittee study format, and a document labeled Subcommittee Study Steps and Checklist. These documents are presented as tools to utilize as part of a subcommittee study; these documents are not intended as a limitation of any kind on how a subcommittee may choose to proceed in its study of an agency. Additionally, the steps and checklist may help provide uniformity among studies.

V. The next order of business was a discussion of Committee administrative matters, including but not limited to, Annual Restructuring Report Guidelines and Standard Practices.

As a background, pursuant to S.C. Code Section 1-30-10(G)(1), agencies are required to submit annual reports to the General Assembly by the first day of session. Since the Code Section does not provide a format for these reports, the Committee, provided one to help with uniformity in the information provided by the agencies. Committee Members were provided a draft of the 2016 Annual Restructuring Report Guidelines, which after review of feedback from agencies, is shorter than last year but still obtains information necessary to oversight of the agencies. It was noted in 2015 agencies submitted different reports to the Senate and House of Representatives. In an effort to have a more efficient oversight process for agencies, Chairman Newton stated that he would provide a copy of the report guidelines to the Senate in an effort to determine if a single set of guidelines may obtain information necessary to oversight of the agencies of interest to both bodies.

The next administrative matter addressed was a revision of standard practices. Chairman Newton noted that while Committee Rule 7.1 provides that standard practices do not need approval by the full Committee, he requested that the Committee approve the revisions to the standard practices. Ms. Jennifer Dobson, Director of Research, provided a brief summary of the proposed revisions. The following Committee Members made comments and/or asked questions about the proposed revisions: the Honorable Kirkman Finlay, III; the Honorable

Ralph N. Norman; the Honorable Mia S. McLeod; the Honorable Gary E. Clary; the Honorable Walton McLeod; the Honorable Tommy Stringer; the Honorable Wm. Weston J. Newton; the Honorable Robert Q. Williams; and the Honorable Nathan Ballentine. The Honorable Nathan Ballentine made a motion to approve the proposed revisions to the Standard Practices. By a vote of 13 to two, with five not voting, the motion was approved.

Rep. Ballentine s Motion to approve the proposed revisions to the Standard Practices	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
1. Nathan Ballentine	Yea		
2. William K. "Bill" Bowers			(Not Present)
3. Gary E. Clary	Yea		
4. Raye Felder			(Not Present)
5. Kirkman Finlay, III		Nay	
6. Laurie Slade Funderburk	Yea		
7. Phyllis Henderson	Yea		
8. Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	Yea		
9. Mia S. McLeod		Nay	
10. Walton J. McLeod	Yea		
11. Ralph W. Norman	Yea		
12. Joshua A. Putnam			(Not Present)
13. Robert L. Ridgeway, III	Yea		
14. Samuel Rivers, Jr.	Yea		
15. James E. Smith, Jr.			(Not Present)
16. Tommy M. Stringer	Yea		
17. Edward R. "Eddie" Tallon			(Not Present)
18. Bill Taylor	Yea		
19. Robert Q. Williams	Yea		
20. Wm. Weston J. Newton	Yea		

VI. The next order of business was a discussion of recommendations to the Speaker of the House of Representatives for agencies to schedule for study in 2016. The Honorable Ralph W. Norman suggested that the Committee consider the Department of Agriculture as an agency to study in 2016. It was noted that a vote on recommendations would occur at the Committee's meeting scheduled for December 15, 2015.

VII. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.